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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 AF-08 IO-13 EA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /104 W
----------230445 006530 /14
R 221151Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1427
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2578

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SB, XO, GW
SUBJ: FRG AMBASSADORIAL CONFERENCE IN DELHI-
ANOTHER VIEW

REF: BONN 02571

1. IN THE WAKE OF PRESIDENT AHMED'S FUNERAL WE HAVE FINALLY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION OUR FRG COLLEAGUE ON THE AMBASSADORIAL CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI. OUR FINDINGS VARY CONSIDERABLY FROM THOSE IMPRESSIONS CONVEYED TO THE EMBASSY AT BONN (REFTEL). WE HAVE NO COMPLETE EXPLANATION FOR THIS, AND CAN ONLY ADD THAT OUR INTERLOCUTOR WAS THE NOTE TAKER AT THE CONFERENCE, AND READ TO US FROM THE CONFERENCE RECORD. HE DID ASK, HOWEVER, THAT THE INFORMATION BE TREATED WITH CIRCUM-SPECTION, AND NOT PASSED ON TO ANY THIRD COUNTRIES SINCE FRG DIPLOMATS PLAN TO USE IT AS A PART OF A LARGER APPEAL FOR GREATER EXTERNAL POLICY COOPERATION TOWARD SOUTH ASIA BY THE NINE. WE PROMISED WE WOULD
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OBSERVE THE CAVEAT.

2. THE PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS WERE IDENTIFIED TO US AS FOLLOWS:

A. ALTHOUGH THE ACTIONS PERTAINING TO THE INDIAN OCEAN BY THE LITTORAL AND INTERESTED STATES ARE PRI-

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MARILY DECLAMATORY, PREPARATIONS MUST BE MADE FOR TALKS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE FRG POSITION MUST REFLECT SECURITY REQUIREMENTS, AND KEEP IN MIND THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF THE SEAS.

B. THE REGION OF SOUTH ASIA MUST BE SEEN IN PERSPECTIVE, AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE THIRD WORLD CLEARLY RECOGNIZED. SINCE FRG POLICY INCLUDES THE THIRD WORLD AS ONE OF ITS FOUR LEGS (THE OTHER BEING EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, AND EASTERN POLICY), SOUTH ASIA IS A MAJOR CONCERN OF FRG FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY SEEN OVER THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE NEXT DECADE.

C. INDIA HAS ACHIEVED A PREDOMINANT POSITION IN THE REGION. THIS IS NOT UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED BY ALL OF INDIA'S NEIGHBORS, BUT THERE HAS AT LEAST BEEN SOME GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF INDIA'S POLICY OF BILATERIALISM.

D. PAKISTAN HAS OVERCOME ITS INTERNAL DIVISIVE PROBLEMS. THERE IS NO DANGER OF DISINTEGRATION OF THE PAKISTAN STATE. IT FOLLOWS A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO RECONCILIATION WITH INDIA.

E. SRI LANKA ACCEPTS THE STATUS QUO IN THE REGION, AND IS NOT TROUBLED ABOUT INDIAN OCEAN RIVALRY, A MULTI-PARTY CONTEST IN WHICH SRI LANKA SEES INDIA AS ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

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F. BOTH THE INDIANS AND THE SOVIETS ARE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH BANGLADESH THAN THEY WERE SIX MONTHS AGO, AND BOTH SEE ZIA AS THE BEST RULER DACCA IS LIKELY TO HAVE. THE BANGLADESHI PENCHANT FOR SEEKING OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, TENDS TO INCREASE TENSIONS AND STIMULATE SUSPICION.

G. SOVIET INTEREST IN THE REGION IS COMPREHENSIVE. THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING AN EFFORT TO BE EVEN HANDED AND TRYING NOT TO NEGLICT INDIA'S NEIGHBORING STATES. THE SOVIETS HAVE RECOGNIZED THE AUTONOMY OF THESE COUNTRIES, AND FIND THIS APPROACH CONTRIBUTES TO OVERALL STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA WHICH IS A SOVIET OBJECTIVE. THE SOVITS REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING A COLLECTIVE SECURITY REGIME UNDER SOVIET TUTELAGE FOR THE REGION.

H. THE CHINESE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN DESTABILIZATION. PEKING WOULD LIKE TO HAVE NORMAL RELATIONS

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WITH BOTH NEW DELHI AND DACCA.

3. WHEN WE ASKED OUR COLLEAGUE ABOUT VIEWS ON ASEAN AND RACIALISM IN SOUTH AFRICA, HE SAID THESE TOPICS WERE NOT DISCUSSED. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE AMBASSADORS REPRESENTED WERE ONLY FROM TEHRAN, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, NEPAL, SRI LANKA, AND INDIA. HE DID NOT RULE OUT CORRIDOR TALK, BUT SAID ASEAN AND SOUTH AFRICA WERE SIMPLY NOT IN THE PURVIEW OF THE MEETING. HE DID ADD THAT THE GROUP CONCLUDED THERE SHOULD BE MORE CONSULTATION WITH THE US ON THE AREA, AND THAT FRG-US BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE POLICY DECISIONS WERE TAKEN IN BONN.

4. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, THE FRG EMBOFF TOLD POLCOUNS THAT PERHAPS THE BONN OFFICIAL MAY HAVE BEEN ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO THE ENTIRE REGION, INCLUDE
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SEA, IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH USEMB OFFICER THERE BECAUSE THE FONOFF DIVISION WHICH INCLUDES SOUTH ASIA, AND THE INDIVIDUALS WHO CAME TO DELHI FROM BONN, COVER THAT AREA AS WELL AS THE MORE LIMITED SOUTH ASIAN SUBAREA WHICH WAS THE SPECIFIC TOPIC OF THE MEETING OF GERMAN DIPLOMATS IN NEW DELHI.
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